



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2026

Governor Healey has extended pandemic-related authorizations thereby allowing remote and hybrid meeting options for public bodies through June 30, 2027.

Mayor Barrett read the following statement published for the record: those attending tonight's meeting should be aware that the meeting is being audio and video recorded by HCTV, Eagle Tribune and WHAV. Any audience members who wish to record any part of the meeting must inform the Chairperson who will announce the recording. This is to comply with the MA wiretap statute.

Roll Call.

Mayor Barrett, Chairperson called the meeting to order (7:00 pm) and requested a roll call vote:

Mrs. Basiliere	Present (in-person)	Ms. Rivera	Present (in-person)
Mr. Brown	Present (in-person)	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present (in-person)
Ms. Collins	Present (in-person)	Mrs. Sapienza-Donais	Present (in-person)
Dr. Grannemann	Present (in-person)	Dr. Story	Present (remotely)
Ms. Guerrero	Present (in-person)	Mayor Barrett	Present (in-person)
Mr. Morrow	Present (in-person)		

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Unified Athletes and recited by all in attendance.

Public Comment.

Ms. Andrea Watson, congratulated the newly elected members and returning members of the school committee. She spoke in opposition to any type of bullying based on political viewpoints and commented on widespread bullying among children. Ms. Watson stated that time-out rooms had been removed from the district (against the law). She added that students had unique needs and technology use needed to balance for students.

Mr. Barry Davis, President of the Haverhill Education Association, Ms. Lynn Sullivan, Educational Support Personnel and NAME. He looked forward to a collaborative relationship between the school committee and the union.

Ms. Maria Martinez, Consentino, spoke as a parent, regarding the Thrive Program. She proposed that at one of the events, school committee meetings translated and if not how to make this a reality.

Student Advisory Council Report – Ms. Molly Jordan.

Ms. Jordan reported there was a successful coffee house. She noted that in February there would be a spirit week. Ms. Jordan stated that there would be a policy survey distributed to students.

Election of Vice Chairperson for 2026.

Mayor Barrett explained that last year’s vice chairperson was Attorney Rosa. She was not allowed to make nominations and asked for other members to nominate a vice chair.

Ms. Collins nominated Dr. Jill Story. There was no second to this nomination.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello nominated Mrs. Toni Sapienza Donais. There was no second to this nomination.

Mrs. Basiliere nominated Dr. Thomas Grannemann. Mr. Morrow seconded Dr. Grannemann’s nomination.

The mayor requested a roll call vote on the nomination of Dr. Thomas Grannemann.

Mrs. Basiliere	Dr. Thomas Grannemann	Ms. Rivera	Dr. Thomas Grannemann
Mr. Brown	Dr. Thomas Grannemann	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Dr. Thomas Grannemann
Ms. Collins	Dr. Thomas Grannemann	Mrs. Sapienza-Donais	Dr. Thomas Grannemann
Dr. Grannemann	Dr. Thomas Grannemann	Mayor Barrett	Dr. Thomas Grannemann
Ms. Guerrero	Dr. Thomas Grannemann		
Mr. Morrow	Dr. Thomas Grannemann		

Dr. Thomas Grannemann was elected vice chairperson for 2026.

Mrs. Sapienza-Donais asked for a deeper look in subcommittee scheduling along with time constraints. She noted that teachers’ negotiations would be time intensive.

Dr. Grannemann would send out an email to all members regarding their interest in membership on the subcommittee(s). He asked for responses by next Tuesday. Dr. Grannemann clarified that chairs of each subcommittee would be scheduling meetings of their respective subcommittees.

Mayor Barrett requested members make a sincere effort to attend the subcommittee meetings.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Update on SY26 SC Goals & Priorities.

Superintendent Marotta introduced Assistant Superintendent Bonnie Antkowiak, Chief Financial Officer Clancy Main, Chief of Teaching, Learning and Leading Michael Rossi (recently returned to the district) and Director of Title I and Community Outreach Dianne Connolly.

Dr. Marotta reviewed the vision and mission statements, along with Priority 1: Engagement Key Goals & Actions.

Mrs. Antkowiak provided an overview of Priority 2: Literacy Key Achievements.

The superintendent explained the components of Priority 3: Academic Excellence Key Actions & Achievements, Priority 4: Readiness for Careers & Citizenship Key Initiatives & Outcomes, and Priority 5: Effective Financial

Management Key Achievements.

Mr. Main provided more detailed information on Priority 5. He reported on the current financial picture and the close monitoring of expenditures. Mr. Main noted that internal planning was underway within the district on next year's budget and commented on the uncertainty of federal funding. Mr. Main looked forward to working with the school committee on budget planning.

Dr. Marotta went over the next steps which included:

- Sustain focus on literacy inputs and outcomes
- Continue expanding authentic parent and student engagement
- Review literacy, attendance, credit recovery, and career readiness and other data to adjust practices as needed
- Finalize the Portrait of a Graduate and performance-based graduation requirements
- Maintain fiscal discipline while advancing strategic priorities
- School Committee reviews strategic priorities as the district enters budget season

Ms. Collins asked for more information on drivers' education programs and equity components.

Superintendent Marotta replied that the lottery emphasizing financial need and other factors would be evaluated as part of the selection.

Ms. Collins asked for consideration of "Life of a Hillie" and social media outreach.

Dr. Marotta answered that official communication needed to be vetted by the district. She stated that there was a communication person who provided social media updates. The superintendent referenced a recent video posted by high school students.

In terms of Ms. Collins' question on financial audit, Mr. Main related outreach had been done to qualified firms with along with the completion of some initial interviews.

Regarding Ms. Collins' inquiry about upcoming school committee public budget workshops, Mr. Main was totally in agreement with continuing the established format.

Mayor Barrett suggested an updating of the goals to assure they aligned with the new school committee's viewpoints.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Ms. Collins: Update on First Joint Haverhill Public Schools and Haverhill School Committee Student Forum (tabled at 12.11.25 meeting).

A motion was made by Dr. Grannemann to remove the Update on First Joint Haverhill Public Schools and Haverhill School Committee Student Forum from the table. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The mayor

Dr. Marotta related that the district sought grants to fund programs.

Dr. Grannemann: Taking Note of the 250th year of the Declaration of Independence.

Dr. Grannemann offered that there would be many events including fireworks, commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Haverhill. He urged everyone to re-read the declaration, and recall the principles of self-government as part of the founding of our country. Dr. Grannemann stated that Haverhill citizens should be proud of the long-record of self-government with our first selectman elected in 1646, 130 years prior to the Declaration of Independence. Dr. Grannemann announced that the Haverhill Education Foundation had some funds to support classroom projects focusing on the Declaration of Independence and teachers are encouraged to apply through the Haverhill Education Foundation website and some should consider a donation to the foundation to support their efforts.

Mayor Barrett noted a lot of potential activities for this commemoration and a committee was working on the planning, one of the members was school committee member Penelope Guerrero.

Superintendent Marotta noted that social studies/history departments were working with Buttonwoods Museum to develop lessons and other activities for the anniversary.

Subcommittee Reports. There were no reports.

School Committee Community Announcements. There were no announcements.

New Business.

Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20260109 totaling \$2,270,825.89, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to approve Warrant Number EV20260109 totaling \$2,270,825.89, as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion.

Dr. Grannemann referenced two (2) line items in the warrants, i.e., page 6 entitled Government Leasing and Finance (debt-interest on short term debt and lease principal only Energy Agreement)

Mr. Main explained that back in 2015, the city council authorized the mayor to borrow \$2.5M for energy conservation projects in the schools which included lighting system improvements, energy management upgrades, steam trap replacements, infiltration reduction, PC load management upgrades, and upgrades to radiator valves. He noted that the school department pays the principal and the city pays the interest which began in 2017. Mr. Main stated that the funds had been included in the budget, with next year’s payment in the amount of \$179,000 and then in 2030, the final payment will be \$200,000.

The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Mrs. Basiliere	Yes	Ms. Rivera	Yes
----------------	-----	------------	-----

mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Mrs. Basiliere	Yes	Ms. Rivera	Yes
Mr. Brown	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Ms. Collins	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza-Donais	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Guerrero	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Mr. Morrow	Yes		

11 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Documents referenced in the meeting: [HSC Portfolio Meeting Binder 01.08.26.pdf](#); [Strategic Priorities Update draft 1.pptx.pdf](#)